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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, and for other purposes

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, and for other purposes

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Making Aid for Local
5 Disasters Equal Now Act” or the “MALDEN Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DECLARATION TIME FRAME.**

7 (a) MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION.—Section
8 401(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) is amended
2 by adding at the end the following: “A major disaster dec-
3 laration under this section shall be made not later than
4 30 days after a request by a Governor or the Chief Execu-
5 tive of an affected Indian Tribal Government. Failure to
6 meet the 30-day requirement shall result in an automatic
7 approval of such request for a declaration.”.

8 (b) EMERGENCY DECLARATION.—Section 501(a) of
9 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
10 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191) is amended by adding at
11 the end the following: “An emergency declaration under
12 this section shall be made not later than 30 days after
13 a request for a declaration by a Governor or the Chief
14 Executive of an affected Indian Tribal Government. Fail-
15 ure to meet the 30-day requirement shall result in an
16 automatic approval of such request for a declaration.”.

17 **SEC. 3. RURAL ASSISTANCE.**

18 Section 326 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
19 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165d) is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(d) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL AREAS.—
22 If a disaster or emergency occurs in a rural area, regard-
23 less if a declaration has been made, the Small State and
24 Rural Advocate shall work in coordination with the State,
25 Territory or Tribal Emergency Management Agency to

1 provide guidance to the rural areas emergency manager
2 on developing a recovery team, including resources to help
3 prevent flooding, mudslides, rockslides or any other nat-
4 ural disaster that could result after a wildfire and identi-
5 fying available resources for both short-term and long-
6 term recovery, including resources to help prevent a future
7 natural disaster within the burned area.”.

8 “(e) CASE WORKER AVAILABILITY.—In a case in
9 which a request for individual assistance in a rural area
10 is made under section 408 but denied, the Small State
11 and Rural Advocate shall work in coordination with the
12 affected State, Territory or Tribal Emergency Manage-
13 ment Agency to make disaster case workers available to
14 the residents impacted by the disaster or emergency.”.